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Sir:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Case No. 02-076)

PATENT

In re Application of: Elliott et al.)
Serial No.: 10/076,260) Before the Examiner: F. Hamud
Filed: February 14, 2002) Group Art Unit: 1647
For: G-Protein Coupled Receptor Molecules and Uses Thereof))
Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

- 1. We are transmitting herewith the attached papers for the above-described patent application: Response to Restriction Requirement and return postcard.
- 2. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE OR CREDIT FEES: Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2490.
- 3. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the papers, as described in paragraph 1, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 26, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Dated: April 26, 2004

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Donald L. Zuhn, Ph.

Reg. No. 48,710



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Case No. 02-076)

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT MAILED MARCH 25, 2004

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 25, 2004, Applicants elect to prosecute claims 1-8, 10, 11, 43-45, 56, and 57, designated as the invention of Group I by the Action, which the Action states are drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a specific nucleotide sequence. The Action also asserts that the claims of Group I-X recite a multitude of nucleic acid sequences and polypeptide sequences that constitutes a recitation of an implied, misjoined Markush group containing multiple independent and distinct inventions, and that each of the nucleic acids is independent and distinct because no common structural or functional properties are shared. To the extent that Applicants understand this assertion, Applicants elect to prosecute claims directed to nucleic acid molecules encoding human GPCR polypeptides, with traverse.

Applicants first request clarification regarding the Action's assertion that the claims of Group I-X recite a multitude of nucleic acid sequences and polypeptide sequences that constitutes a recitation of an implied, mis-joined Markush group containing multiple independent and distinct inventions, and that each of the nucleic acids is independent and distinct because no common structural or functional properties are shared. Assuming that Applicants have correctly interpreted

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Donald I Zuhn

the instant Action as requiring an election of a genus of nucleic acid molecules encoding human, murine, or rat GPCR polypeptides, Applicants elect to prosecute claims directed to nucleic acid molecules encoding human GPCR polypeptides (*i.e.*, the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleic acid molecules encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, and nucleic acid molecules encoding variants and fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2), with traverse. The basis for Applicants' traversal of the requirement is as follows. Applicants respectfully submit that because the genus of nucleic acid molecules encoding human, murine, and rat GPCR polypeptides shares common structural properties and substantial amino acid identity and similarity, the members of this genus do not constitute multiple independent and distinct inventions.

Applicants note that the instant application teaches nucleic acid molecules encoding human, murine, and rat GPCR polypeptides, and contend that in view of the substantial amino acid identity and similarity shared by these polypeptides (Exhibit A), one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize that the human, murine, and rat GPCR polypeptides taught in the instant application are orthologs. Applicants also note that the human and murine GPCR polypeptides taught in the instant application share 78% identity and 85% similarity (Exhibit B), the human and rat GPCR polypeptides share 78% identity and 86% similarity (Exhibit C), and the murine and rat GPCR polypeptides share 90% identity and 93% similarity. Moreover, as disclosed in Figure 4 of the instant application, the human, murine, and rat GPCR polypeptides also share common structural properties in that each protein possesses seven transmembrane domains. The ClustalW sequence alignments shown in Exhibits B-D were performed using the application MacVector 7.1.1 (Accelrys, Cambridge, UK; http://www.accelrys.com) at the default settings.

Applicants respectfully submit that because the genus of nucleic acid molecules encoding human, murine, and rat GPCR polypeptides taught in the instant application shares substantial sequence identity and similarity, and therefore, share, rather than lack, common structural properties, the members of this genus do not constitute multiple independent and distinct inventions. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request examination of claims directed to nucleic acid molecules encoding human, murine, and rat GPCR polypeptides.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fee is required. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 13-2490. If Examiner Hamud believes

it to be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at 312-913-0001.

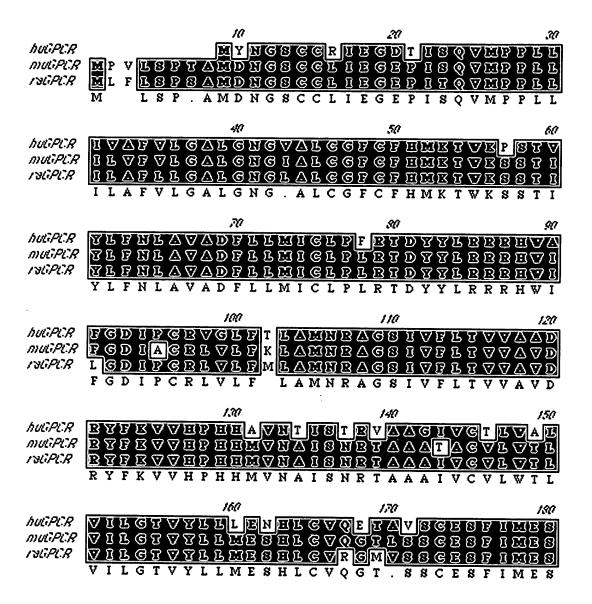
Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Dated: April 26, 2004

Donald L. Zuhn, Ph.D Reg. No. 48,710

EXHIBIT A



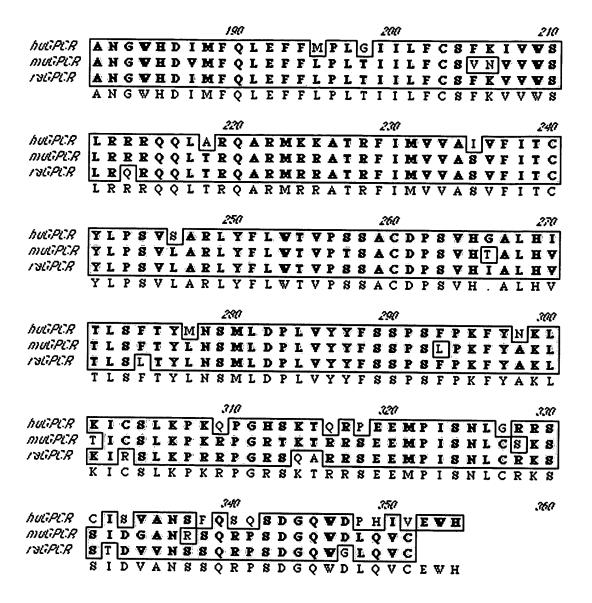


EXHIBIT B

1. huGPCR vs. muGPCR

Aligned Length = 354 Gaps = 0 Identities = 276 (78%) Similarities = 26 (7%)

huGPCR muGPCR	1 1	MYNGSCCRIEGDTISQVMPPLLIVAFVLGALGNGVALCGFCF 42 MPVLSPTAMDNGSCCLIEGEPISQVMPPLLILVFVLGALGNGIALCGFCF 50 * ***** ***. ********. ***************
huGPCR muGPCR		HMKTWKPSTVYLFNLAVADFLLMICLPFRTDYYLRRRHWAFGDIPCRVGL 92 HMKTWKSSTIYLFNLAVADFLLMICLPLRTDYYLRRRHWIFGDIACRLVL 100 ****** **.***************************
huGPCR muGPCR	93 101	FTLAMNRAGSIVFLTVVAADRYFKVVHPHHAVNTISTRVAAGIVCTLWAL 142 FKLAMNRAGSIVFLTVVAVDRYFKVVHPHHMVNAISNRTAAATACVLWTL 150 * ************* *********************
huGPCR muGPCR		VILGTVYLLLENHLCVQETAVSCESFIMESANGWHDIMFQLEFFMPLGII 192 VILGTVYLLMESHLCVQGTLSSCESFIMESANGWHDVMFQLEFFLPLTII 200 ***********************************
huGPCR muGPCR		LFCSFKIVWSLRRRQQLARQARMKKATRFIMVVAIVFITCYLPSVSARLY 242 LFCSVNVVWSLRRRQQLTRQARMRRATRFIMVVASVFITCYLPSVLARLY 250 **** .********* **********************
huGPCR muGPCR	243 251	FLWTVPSSACDPSVHGALHITLSFTYMNSMLDPLVYYFSSPSFPKFYNKL 292 FLWTVPTSACDPSVHTALHVTLSFTYLNSMLDPLVYYFSSPSLPKFYAKL 300 ****** *** *** *** *** *** ***
huGPCR muGPCR	293 301	KICSLKPKQPGHSKTQRPEEMPISNLGRRSCISVANSFQSQSDGQWDPHI 342 TICSLKPKRPGRTKTRRSEEMPISNLCSKSSIDGANRSQRPSDGQWDLQV 350 ************************************
huGPCR muGPCR		VEWH 346 C 351

EXHIBIT C

2. huGPCR vs. raGPCR

Aligned Length = 354 Gaps = 0 Identities = 276 (78%) Similarities = 30 (8%)

huGPCR raGPCR	1	MYNGSCCRIEGDTISQVMPPLLIVAFVLGALGNGVALCGFCF MLFLSPSAMDNGSCCLIEGEPITQVMPPLLILAFLLGALGNGLALCGFCF * ***** ***. *.******.**.************	42 50
huGPCR raGPCR		HMKTWKPSTVYLFNLAVADFLLMICLPFRTDYYLRRRHWAFGDIPCRVGL HMKTWKSSTIYLFNLAVADFLLMICLPLRTDYYLRRRHWILGDIPCRLVL ***** ** **.*********** **************	92 100
huGPCR raGPCR		FTLAMNRAGSIVFLTVVAADRYFKVVHPHHAVNTISTRVAAGIVCTLWAL FMLAMNRAGSIVFLTVVAVDRYFKVVHPHHMVNAISNRTAAAIVCVLWTL * ************** ********************	
huGPCR raGPCR		VILGTVYLLLENHLCVQETAVSCESFIMESANGWHDIMFQLEFFMPLGII VILGTVYLLMESHLCVRGMVSSCESFIMESANGWHDIMFQLEFFLPLTII ***********************************	192 200
huGPCR raGPCR		LFCSFKIVWSLRRRQQLARQARMKKATRFIMVVAIVFITCYLPSVSARLY LFCSFKVVWSLRQRQQLTRQARMRRATRFIMVVASVFITCYLPSVLARLY ******.******************************	
huGPCR raGPCR		FLWTVPSSACDPSVHGALHITLSFTYMNSMLDPLVYYFSSPSFPKFYNKL FLWTVPSSACDPSVHIALHVTLSLTYLNSMLDPLVYYFSSPSFPKFYAKL ************************************	
huGPCR raGPCR	293 301	KICSLKPKQPGHSKTQRPEEMPISNLGRRSCISVANSFQSQSDGQWDPHI KIRSLKPRRPGRSQARRSEEMPISNLCRKSSTDVVNSSQRPSDGQWGLQV ** ******.* ******* *.* * ** * *****	342 350
huGPCR raGPCR		VEWH 346 C 351	

EXHIBIT D

3. muGPCR vs. raGPCR

Aligned Length = 351 Gaps = 0
Identities = 316 (90%) Similarities = 13 (3%)

muGPCR raGPCR		MPVLSPTAMDNGSCCLIEGEPISQVMPPLLILVFVLGALGNGIALCGFCF MLFLSPSAMDNGSCCLIEGEPITQVMPPLLILAFLLGALGNGLALCGFCF * ***.********************************	50 50
muGPCR raGPCR		HMKTWKSSTIYLFNLAVADFLLMICLPLRTDYYLRRRHWIFGDIACRLVL HMKTWKSSTIYLFNLAVADFLLMICLPLRTDYYLRRRHWILGDIPCRLVL ***********************************	100 100
muGPCR raGPCR		FKLAMNRAGSIVFLTVVAVDRYFKVVHPHHMVNAISNRTAAATACVLWTL FMLAMNRAGSIVFLTVVAVDRYFKVVHPHHMVNAISNRTAAAIVCVLWTL * ***********************************	150 150
muGPCR raGPCR		VILGTVYLLMESHLCVQGTLSSCESFIMESANGWHDVMFQLEFFLPLTII VILGTVYLLMESHLCVRGMVSSCESFIMESANGWHDIMFQLEFFLPLTII ***********************************	200 200
muGPCR raGPCR		LFCSVNVVWSLRRRQQLTRQARMRRATRFIMVVASVFITCYLPSVLARLY LFCSFKVVWSLRQRQQLTRQARMRRATRFIMVVASVFITCYLPSVLARLY **** ********************************	250 250
muGPCR raGPCR		FLWTVPTSACDPSVHTALHVTLSFTYLNSMLDPLVYYFSSPSLPKFYAKL FLWTVPSSACDPSVHIALHVTLSLTYLNSMLDPLVYYFSSPSFPKFYAKL ****** ******* **********************	300 300
muGPCR raGPCR	301 301	TICSLKPKRPGRTKTRRSEEMPISNLCSKSSIDGANRSQRPSDGQWDLQV KIRSLKPRRPGRSQARRSEEMPISNLCRKSSTDVVNSSQRPSDGQWGLQV * ****.**** * * * * ****** * * *	350 350
muGPCR raGPCR		C 351 C 351	